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Request for Genealogical Information

On the Norsworthy Family

by
John H. and Lillian Kent Harrison

Columbus, Ohio
1957

MS
1904

Lt. John H. Harrison

REQUEST FOR GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION.

April, 1957

MAY 21 1957

Dear Friends and Relatives:

We are searching for genealogical information on the family which started with KNAWORTHY in England, and with Tristram Norsworthy in Virginia. This name has gone through many variations, including Noseworth, Nosworthy, Notsworthy, Noesworthy, Nusworthy, Nasworthy, Norseworthy, Norsworthey, Norsweather, Norsewether, Noisworth and Nawsworthy.

At the time we started on this hobby, we did not realize that the State of Virginia is planning to celebrate the 350th annicersary of the founding of Jamestown in 1607, with a festival lasting from April through November of 1957. (See TRAVEL magazine, January, 1957, pages 16-21.) We are just beginning to recognize the part this family played in our early history. With this in mind, we hope to spend more time on our hobby in the future.

Our specific point of interest is JAMES NORSWORTHY, a soldier of the Revolution from Warren Co., N. C., who later lived in Bedford and Perry Counties, Tenn., and possibly Decatur Co. We don't know what happened to him at this point. However, the Georgia Land Lottery for 1827 shows a James NAWSWORTHY of Monroe Co., Ga., who received a land grant in the Creek Territory of West Georgia. We don't know if this is the same James.

The sons of James, Thomas and Nial Norsworthy, received land grants in the Chickasaw Territory of Western Kentucky (Jackson's Purchase). A William Norsworthy, who may have been another son, received a land grant in Montgomery Co., Tenn. A grandson Thomas, son of Thomas, settled in Wabash Co., Ill., around 1854.

The elder Thomas was married first to Elizabeth Parker, who seems to be the daughter of Kader Parker, a Lieutenant of the Revolution from Gates Co., N. C. There were eight children by this marriage. He married secondly, Joanna Head, in Calloway Co., Ky., by whom he had two children. The younger Thomas was also married twice, first to Eliza Jones of Kentucky, by whom he had one daughter, and then to Susanna Ashford of Wabash Co., Ill., by whom he had ten children. Living with this Thomas in 1860 was a John Norsworthy, age 19, whom we are unable to account for, except that he shows up in the Civil War records as a Private, Co. I., 40th Ill. Vols, and was discharged July, 1865, at Louisville.

In making this request for information, we are interested in as much of yourself and family as you may care to disclose, and nothing you may want to withhold. We are particularly interested in places of origin and settlement, military service records, land grants, occupation, etc. If you know of anyone who has news clippings, family Bibles, or other records which can be copied, we would appreciate hearing about them. Don't send us the originals. Typewritten or photostat copies will do. We don't know how long this project will take, but we plan to keep digging.

JOHN H. and LILLIAN KENT HARRISON, 1062 MT. PLEASANT AVE., COLUMBUS 1, OHIO

MAY 21 1957

WITHDRAWN
From the Family
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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1904

Excerpt from: BRITISH FAMILY NAMES - THEIR ORIGIN AND MEANING, by Henry Barber. Published by Elliot Stork, London, 1894.

Page 170: NOSWORTHY - From Knaworthy; a local name - Devon.

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Excerpt from: HOMES OF FAMILY NAMES, by Henry Brougham Guppy. Published by Harrison & Sons, London, 1890.

Page 160: DEVONSHIRE.

The NOSWORTHYS are now at home in the Exeter district. John Nosworthy was mayor of that city in 1521. Nosworthy is also an old name in the Ashburton district, Notsworthy being a manor in Widecombe. John Noseworthy was an Ashburton churchwarden in 1503, and John Nosworthy was rector of Manaton 200 years ago. This was also an old Cornish name in the 16th and 17th centuries; it was borne by a justice of the peace of the county in the reign of Elizabeth, by a mayor of Truro in the reign of Charles I, and by a high sheriff in the time of Cromwell.

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(Abstracted from volumes in the library of the Ohio State Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio, by John H. Harrison.)

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Excerpt from: THE HISTORY OF NANSEMOND COUNTY, VIRGINIA, by Joseph B. Dunn. (No publisher or date given.)

Page 19: As early as 1635 Nansemond attracted the attention of settlers. Here as elsewhere in Virginia the settlements clung to the watercourses. In 1635 Gov. West granted to Richart Bennett 2,000 acres on Nansemond River for importing forty persons; and to John Slaughter 2,000 acres on Wright's Creek. The patents to lands in the year 1638 refer to tracts situated on the Nansemond or Matrevers River. Lord Matrevers, son of the Duke of Norfolk, had received a grant in 1633 to 30,000 acres on Nansemond River and an effort was made to call the river Matravers (Matrevers) in honor of the English lord. The name did not stick, however, and appears only as an alternate form in the land patents. By 1639 the influx of population had become so large that this section was separated from Isle of Wight and set apart as a county under the name of Upper Norfolk County. Its first representatives in the House of Burgesses were Randall Crew, John Gookin and Tristam Norseworthy.

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(Abstracted from a volume in the library of the University of North Carolina by Mrs. C. W. Shields, Chapel Hill, N. C.)

Excerpt from: SEVENTEENTH CENTURY ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VIRGINIA, by John Bennett Boddie. Chicago Law Printing Co., 1938.

Pages 236-38: NORSWORTHY.

Wills of the Norsworthy family are numerous in Devon before 1650 and this is probably the home county of this family as but few wills are found elsewhere. Norsworthy or Notsworthy is a village in the Parish of Widecombe on the Moor, Devon. The arms of the Norsworthys of Devon were "Per pale gu. and or, a chevron and a pile enjointed in point at the top of the chevron, all countercharged."

Vivian's Visitation of Devon (Vol. 2, p. 588) shows that John, son of Thomas Norsworthy of Manaton (Will, P.C.C., 1605) married Mary, daughter of Peter Woodley, and had a son James Norsworthy who married a daughter of John Southmead. James' children were William, John and George. This George may have been the father of Tristram of Virginia, but this is only a guess.

The first of the family in Virginia was Tristram Norsworthy who patented 2000 acres in Nansemond, June 5, 1639 "towards the head of a bay behind the Ragged Islands." On the same date he patented 150 acres near Daniel Gookin for his own personal adventure and that of his wife Ann, and a servant. He was a Burgess of Upper Norfolk or Nansemond in 1641. He probably died in Nansemond and the date of his death is not known.

His eldest son was Colonel George Norsworthy, mentioned in Bacon's Rebellion and a Captain of Militia, afterwards sheriff of Nansemond, who made his will February 1st, 1700, and same was probated in 1705. Colonel George's children were, Juliana who married James day; John who had daughters Elizabeth, Juliana and Leah; George who is mentioned as being in England in 1705; Charles who made his will in Isle of Wight in 1734 and left children (See will); Thomas who was born in 1660 and died single in 1720; and Martha. Colonel George's wife may have been of the Pitt family but of this we are not certain. She afterwards married Thomas Boyd.

Tristram Norsworthy's other children were: William who died in 1707 without issue; John who married Frances and left a daughter Elizabeth who married Joseph Bridger (Will 1713); Thomas who had a wife Susannah (no issue known) and Tristram who married Sarah Pitt, caughter of Colonel John Pitt and his wife Olive, daughter of John Hardy.

The children of Tristram, the son of Tristram were, Tristram; John; Sarah; Elizabeth; Frances; Martha and George who died in 1724. George married Christian daughter of Jeremiah Exum, one of the leading Quakers. She made her will in 1727. Their children were, Christian; Elizabeth who married John Monro; Martha who married John Bressie and George who married Rachel relict of Thomas Parker.

(Abstracted from a volume in the library of the State Office Building, Columbus, Ohio.)

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

P. F. COLLIER & SON CORPORATION
640 Fifth Avenue, New York 19, N. Y.

Office of the President

August 25, 1955

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Your letter, addressed to the Editorial Offices of the Crowell-Collier Publishing Company, has been referred to my desk.

I am very happy to forward you not only a reprint from the December issue of the Woman's Home Companion, relating to the story of the Norsworthy family, but I am also pleased to enclose as much information as I have regarding the history of our family.

For your information, the land grant to the Norsworthy family was signed by King James I and dated 1610. While I do not have documentary evidence, it is my belief that the first Norsworthy family settled in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, in 1639.

You will note that the memorial windows in old St. Luke's Church, Isle of Wight County, Virginia, still bear the names of three members of the Norsworthy family - these windows were placed in the year 1632. I can assure you that I have personally seen these windows.

You may also be interested in a photograph of the original Norsworthy castle near Saltash, England. This, I beleave, is somewhere in the vicinity of Plymouth, England.

In the meantime, if you are interested in finding out more about this particular Norsworthy, I suggest that you contact Mr. P. J. Dennerlein, who is the Manufacturing Director of the Crowell-Collier Publishing Company in Springfield, Ohio.

The next time I am in Columbus, Ohio, I hope to be able to give you a call so that we may compare notes.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

C. F. Norsworthy

Mr. John H. Harrison
1062 Mt. Pleasant Ave.
Columbus 1, Ohio

John H. Harrison
1062 Mt. Pleasant Ave.
Columbus 1, Ohio

James Harrison
1800 -

Jeremiah Harrison
1824 - 1910

Nancy Chaffin
1803 -

8

Jas. Bennett Harrison
1853 - 1947

Charles J. Sorrells

Mildred J. Sorrells

Sallie Still

Rich'd Carl Harrison
1882 - living

From Walton Co., Ga.
Family origin - Va., N.C.

Rich'd B. Carroll Bentley
(or W.B.C. Bentley)

Marj. Virg. Bentley

Jesse Bentley, Am. Rev., & wife Mary Scott were in Walton Co. in 1819.

Emmerline M. Cox
1828 - 1902

James Norsworthy & wife Barbara - - - were the parents of Thomas Norsworthy. James was a 1st. Sgt & Adjt in the Am. Rev. from Warren Co., N. C. Kader (or Keda) Parker, A Lt. in the Am. Rev. from Gates Co., N. C., was the father of Elizabeth. Thomas' 2nd m. was to Joanna Head in Calloway Co., Ky. The 2nd Thomas was m. 1st to Eliza (or Juliza) Jones in Marshall Co., Ky.

Thomas Norsworthy
1784 -

Thomas Norsworthy
1824 - 1877

1st m. for Thomas
Elizabeth Parker
1786 -

Jas. H. Norsworthy
1856 - 1940

2nd m. for both

James C. Ashford
1812 - 1872

Susanna Ashford
1833 - 1916

Martha Butler
1810 - 1889

Amy A. Norsworthy
1883 - 1955

From Wabash Co., Ill.
Family origin - Va., N.C., Tenn., Ky., Md., Pa., Ohio

Jonathan Gilkison

m. 1820

Joshua M. Gilkison
1830 - 1878

Delilah Tanquary

Amanda E. Gilkison
1862 - 1938

Robert H. Rigg
1795 - 1842

Caroline M. Rigg
1837 - 1915

Elizabeth McCleary
1806 - 1900

John H. Harrison
1913 - living

Philip K. Harrison
1949 - living

Susan K. Harrison
1951 - living

Lillian W. Kent
1913 - living

April - 1957

3/3/2008
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